THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

SINS RISING

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KIM JACINTO
MARK BAGLEY
MARCELO FERREIRA

MARVEL

AM
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MAN

While Spider-Man struggles with criminals, criminal mayors, loneliness without Mary Jane by his side and disturbing nightmares of a gruesome bandaged mystery apparently named Kindred, he's been unaware of another foreboding development. Kindred has summoned to their side a man Spider-Man knows to be dead. A man who's since observed the criminal activities of several old familiar malefactors and might have brought down brutal retribution on some of them. In life, this man was sometimes called Stanley Carter, but he also had another name.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

SINS RISING

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SINS RISING PRELUDE VARIANT BY BOSSLOGIC

SINS RISING PRELUDE

MY MOTHER AND FATHER MET IN NEW YORK AT THE TAIL END OFTHE *SWINGING SIXTIES.* SHE WAS UPPER WEST SIDE THROUGH AND THROUGH--

--HE WAS A *COUNTRY BUMPKIN* FRESH OFF A GREYHOUND FROM MISSOURI.

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

OF COURSE, THE TIMES BEING WHAT THEY WERE, THEY PROCEEDED TO EXPAND THEIR MINDS.

THEY WOULD BOTH STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION THE REST OF THEIR LIVES--

--MY DAD'S BEING AN AWFUL LOT *SHORTER* IN THE END.

MY MOTHER WOULD NEVER FORGET SEEING HIM DIE IN HER ARMS, BUT JUST IN CASE--

--HE MADE SURE TO LEAVE HER WITH SOMETHING TO *REMEMBER* HIM BY.

MOM'S FAMILY WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR DAUGHTER'S MISTAKE. THEY CHECKED HER INTO A *REHAB CLINIC,* AND AS SOON AS I WAS BORN, I WAS SENT FAR, FAR AWAY--

--TO A LITTLE BACKWATER DEEP IN THE *OZARK MOUNTAINS*--

--TO BE RAISED BY MY PATERNAL *GRANDPARENTS.*

MY GRANDFATHER WAS A HARD, ANGRY MAN WHO PREACHED *HELLFIRE* AND *BRIMSTONE* TO ABOUT A DOZEN PENTECOSTALS EVERY SUNDAY.

HE REVILED HIS ONLY SON FOR SPURNING HIS FAITH AND RUNNING AWAY TO SODOM TO DANCE WITH THE HEATHENS, ONLY TO DIE A DRUGGIE--

--AND THERE I WAS, THE *REMINDER* OF IT ALL.

IF HE COULDN'T PUNISH HIS SON FOR HIS TRANSGRESSIONS--

--HE WOULD PUNISH *ME* INSTEAD.

JUST LIKE HIM, AREN'T YOU, BOY? SOFT.

THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING WHEN I KILLED IT.

JUST LIKE I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING WHEN A RATTLER BIT INTO MY GRANDFATHER DURING THE SNAKE HANDLING AT A TENT REVIVAL.

MY GRANDMOTHER AND THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION, ON THE OTHER HAND, FELT *PLENTY*. NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND HOW THE MOST RIGHTEOUS MAN THEY KNEW HAD BEEN TAKEN THIS WAY.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SUPPOSED TO *PROTECT* HIM, KEEP HIM CLEANSED OF SIN. UNLESS HE *WASN'T*, SOMEHOW.

AND SO, BEING THE SUPERSTITIOUS BUNCH THEY WERE, THEY DECIDED TO MAKE SURE THEIR PREACHER MADE IT TO HEAVEN--

AND SOON ENOUGH, WHEN ALL ELSE HAD GONE DARK AND QUIET, *HE* CAME--

--BUT *I* HAD TO SEE.

--BY CALLING ON SOMETHING I'D ONLY HEARD ABOUT IN WHISPERS.

SOMETHING TERRIBLE AND DECIDEDLY *UNHOLY*. THEY LAID HIS BODY OUT OVERNIGHT, THEN LOCKED THEMSELVES AWAY--

--THE *SIN EATER.*

THEY'D EXISTED AS LONG AS ANYONE COULD REMEMBER--GOING BACK TO THE OLD COUNTRY--BUT NEVER MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME.

HERMITS WHO HID OUT IN THE WOODS UNTIL THEY WERE CALLED UPON TO PERFORM THEIR RITUAL.

THE FAMILY SET A MEAL ON THEIR DEAD LOVED ONE'S CHEST--AN OFFERING REPRESENTING THE DECEASED'S SINS.

THE SIN EATER CONSUMED IT, TOOK THOSE TRANSGRESSIONS AS HIS OWN. ALLOWING THE SPIRIT TO ASCEND.

YOU WOULD THINK THAT SACRIFICE WOULD MERIT THEM SOME KINDNESS OR RESPECT, BUT NO. THEY WERE SHUNNED AND HATED.

IF THEY DARED SHOW THEIR FACES IN PUBLIC, NO ONE LOOKED THEM IN THE EYE. TO THE FAMILIES, THEY REPRESENTED HIDDEN SHAMES AND SECRETS. BUT I SAW SOMETHING ELSE.

AFTER ALL, WHAT WAS I BUT ANOTHER MAN'S SINS MADE FLESH?

I CARRIED THE BURDEN OF WHAT MY FATHER HAD DONE AND HAD PAID THE PRICE FOR IT.

BUT IF I WAS PREPARED FOR WHAT I SAW, I DEFINITELY WASN'T PREPARED--

SOMETHING I RECOGNIZED.

--WHEN HE LOOKED BACK AT ME.

I KNEW SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAD HAPPENED.

I HAD BEEN CALLED. MARKED. CHANGED.

OR SO IT SEEMED. IT WAS ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER, MY MOTHER--A WOMAN I'D NEVER MET--SHOWED UP. SHE'D GOTTEN CLEAN, FOUND A JOB...

YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE HIM AWAY--

THE HELL I CAN'T! I'M NOT GONNA LET MY SON BE RAISED LIKE THIS! AND I HAVE A LAWYER--

NOW SHE WANTED HER SON BACK.

YOU'RE GOING TO *LOVE* NEW YORK, STANLEY. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU EVERYWHERE--THE *MUSEUMS*, THE *EMPIRE STATE BUILDING*, *CONEY ISLAND*...

SO THAT WAS THE END OF ME IN THE LAND OF SIN EATERS AND SNAKE HANDLERS. I NEVER WENT BACK TO THE OZARKS.

I NEVER LEFT.

I GREW UP

I SUPPOSE IT WAS MY GRANDFATHER'S VOICE IN MY HEAD, CALLING ME SOFT, THAT MADE ME ENLIST WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.

AND AFTER THAT WENT WRONG, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHERE I MADE DETECTIVE.

ALL OF WHICH LED ME HERE...

TO MY PARTNER'S GRAVE.

KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. THE PUNKS WHO DID IT STILL ON THE LOOSE.

HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

DETECTIVE CARTER--

--DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, FATHER--BUT THIS... THIS ISN'T WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW.

YOU MEAN THERE'S SOMETHING MORE *IMPORTANT* RIGHT NOW THAN LAYING YOUR PARTNER TO REST AND PAYING YOUR RESPECT?

YES.

GETTING HIM SOME *JUSTICE.*

HNN. I *UNDERSTAND.*

YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS AN ALTAR BOY, I TOOK MONEY FROM THE COLLECTION. NOT MUCH, BUT MY FAMILY--WE DIDN'T HAVE MEANS, AND I WAS A KID.

I WANTED TO *LIVE* A LITTLE. I'D TAKE IT AND I'D BUY BASEBALL CARDS AND BUBBLEGUM.

NOT SURE I FOLLOW.

I NEVER GOT CAUGHT, YOU SEE.

AS FAR AS EVERYONE ELSE WAS CONCERNED, I WAS THE MOST DEVOTED, TRUSTWORTHY ALTAR BOY YOU COULD ASK FOR. I KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO HIDE THE GUILT ON MY FACE--

--AND I LEARNED HOW TO SPOT THAT *SAME* GUILT IN *OTHERS.*

YOU DON'T NEED TO TORTURE YOURSELF LIKE THIS, STAN. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS.

AND IT'S NOT WHAT YOUR FRIEND WOULD'VE WANTED. DON'T LET THIS *CONSUME* YOU!

THERE IS POWER IN *FORGIVENESS!*

BUT RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE ANY POWER AT ALL.

Boop

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ON *LEAVE.* PERSONAL TIME. TO *MOURN.*

THEY'RE KEEPING ME IN THE DARK ON *EVERYTHING*-- WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHO'S WORKING THE CASE. IT'S FOR MY OWN GOOD, THEY SAY.

THEY SAY A LOT OF THINGS

A WORD OF CAUTION, DEAR VIEWERS--

TONIGHT'S STORY IS A **MACABRE** ONE, AND NOT EASY TO STOMACH.

IT'S A TALE OF **VIOLENCE, DELUSION,** AND **HORROR.**

AT ITS HEART... A SERIAL KILLER WHO NEARLY BROUGHT NEW YORK TO ITS KNEES!

IT BEGINS WITH A YOUNG, BRIGHT-EYED POLICEWOMAN WHO HAD WORKED HER WAY UP THROUGH THE RANKS--

--TO BECOME A HARD-NOSED, TOUGH AS NAILS **CAPTAIN**--AND AN ALLY TO THE MASKED ADVENTURER CALLED **SPIDER-MAN!**

SHE SEEMED DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS--

--UNTIL SHE WAS FOUND BRUTALLY MURDERED IN HER OWN HOME! LEAVING A TERRIFIED CITY TO ASK--

--WHO KILLED JEAN DEWOLFF?

JEAN...

CARTER.

YOU LEFT ME HANGING BACK THERE WITH THE FAMILY.

THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR *ANYTHING* I HAVE TO SAY RIGHT NOW--

--UNTIL YOU CAN TELL THEM YOU GOT THE #$%& WHO DID THIS, YOU MEAN.

YEAH.

OF COURSE, NO ONE WILL TELL ME A DARN THING. I'M NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO SEE THE *LEADS*--

STAN, COME ON. THIS ISN'T A *MOVIE*. THEY'RE NOT GONNA LET YOU LEAD THE INVESTIGATION ON YOUR OWN PARTNER'S--

SORRY. IT'S MY DAD.

BUT IT *ISN'T*.

SHE SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO LIE THAT BADLY IN FRONT OF A DETECTIVE.

BUT THEN, IT'S BEEN A LONG TERRIBLE DAY--

--AND SHE HAS A LOT ON HER MIND

SORRY AGAIN. WHERE WERE WE--

TO THE BEST MAN WE KNEW.

SO NOW I KNEW WHO THE *LEAD INVESTIGATOR* WAS.

JEAN, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO *LIE* TO ME?

BUT THE *GOOD* NEWS IS NOW I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED--

--RIGHT AT MY FINGERTIPS.

SO THEY DO HAVE A SUSPECT. A TIP FROM AN INFORMANT PROVIDES A NAME.

BUT HIS RECORDS ARE SEALED--

--WHICH MEANS I'LL NEED A COURT ORDER.

NYPD! OPEN UP!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! WHO DO YOU--

DETECTIVE CARTER? WHAT--WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW *INAPPROPRIATE* THIS IS?

JUDGE ROSENTHAL. GOOD EVENING.

I DO. I NEED A *FAVOR.*

NOW?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING!

IT CERTAINLY IS, JUDGE--

--YOUR WIFE MUST BE *WORRIED SICK* ABOUT YOU.

THE INFORMATION I'M ABLE TO GET FROM ROSENTHAL LEADS ME TO AN ADDRESS.

THAT'S ALL I NEED.

SOMEONE WAS HIRED TO KILL MY PARTNER. SOMEONE WITH ACCOMPLICES.

THEY DID WHAT THEY DID FOR MONEY.

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO--

AND WE'RE BACK. A CITY PARALYZED BY FEAR, A KILLER ON THE LOOSE--AND NOW HE HAD A NAME.

HE CALLED HIMSELF...

THE SIN-EATER!

HE PLEDGED TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF EVIL, BUT THIS MADMAN'S DERANGED MORALITY CLAIMED SOME TRULY VIRTUOUS VICTIMS--

HE TARGETED A HIGHLY ESTEEMED JUDGE FOR GRANTING CLEMENCY TO AN ACCUSED CRIMINAL--

--BRUTALLY EXECUTING HIM IN FRONT OF ONE OF HIS FORMER LAW STUDENTS!

BUT EVEN THAT DIDN'T COMPARE TO WHAT CAME NEXT...

A BELOVED PRIEST, A LEADER IN HIS COMMUNITY, AND A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF DEATH ROW INMATES--

--A CAUSE THE SIN-EATER DESPISED SO MUCH--

--HE MURDERED HIM IN HIS OWN CONFESSIONAL BOOTH!

WITH THIS MONSTER ROAMING THE STREETS--

--ONLY ONE MAN COULD STOP HIM--

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THAT'S ME! HI, EVERYBODY!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP

IT WAS PERSONAL FOR SPIDER-MAN AFTER THE ATTEMPTED SLAYING OF DAILY BUGLE REPORTER BETTY BRANT!

SO ENRAGED WAS THE WALL-CRAWLER THAT HE NEARLY BEAT SIN-EATER TO DEATH--

--UNTIL HE WAS STOPPED FROM CROSSING THAT FATEFUL LINE BY ANOTHER MASKED VIGILANTE, DAREDEVIL!

WHEW, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! WE ALL KNOW SPIDEY DOESN'T KILL.

UNLESS HE'S REALLY, REALLY MAD.

AH-HAHA HAHA

HOO

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR LOCAL--

AAAH! YOU!

IT'S YOU ISN'T IT?

I'VE BEEN WAITING.

FROM HERE, I CAN SEE EVERYTHING. HOW IT STARTS AND HOW IT ENDS.

I DON'T MIND, REALLY. HE WASN'T ALWAYS THE NICEST GUY, BUT HE WAS FAMILY.

I JUST WANNA KNOW--

--WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO IT?

SOFT.

THERE IS POWER IN FORGIVENESS!

ELEVATOR GO UP... ELEVATOR GO DOWN...

THERE HE IS, FOLKS--

--LET'S GIVE A WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR GUEST TONIGHT--

--DETECTIVE STANLEY CARTER!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

SO, STAN... THERE'S NO GOOD WAY TO ASK THIS, BUT... WHAT'S IT *LIKE* BEING A *MASS MURDERER?*

THERE WE ARE-- HAVE A SEAT.

YOU ALREADY ASKED ME THAT...

I--I--I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

WELL, YOU SURE HAVE. PLENTY OF TIMES. BUT THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING *EXTRA-SPECIAL* TO SHOW US, DON'T YOU?

I... D-*DO* I?

I UNDERSTAND WE HAVE A CLIP. YOU WANT TO SET IT UP FOR THE FOLKS OUT THERE?

IT--IT W-W-WAS ME...

I WAS THE *SIN-EATER*-- I KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE...

JEAN... NO... OH MY GOD...

"SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL... THEY STOPPED ME. BROUGHT ME TO JUSTICE.

"I WAS *INSTITUTIONALIZED*. I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE IN THERE, BUT THEN ONE DAY--

"--THEY LET ME GO.

"THEY SAID THEY *CURED* ME. AND IT WAS TRUE...

"...FOR THE *MOST* PART. I WAS STILL HEARING HIS VOICE--*HAUNTING* ME, *HOUNDING* ME...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

"BUT I WANTED SO BADLY TO BE FREE OF HIM. TO TRY TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT..."

FOR *HER.*

I WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK... TELL THE WORLD THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED. MY *CONFESSION.*

BUT THEN SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP. HE--HE DIDN'T BELIEVE I MEANT IT. HE WAS STILL *ANGRY--*

YOU CAN SAY *THAT* AGAIN, BUSTER!

ONCE A SIN-EATER, *ALWAYS* A SIN-EATER--THAT'S WHAT I SAY.

BA-DUM-CHA!

HE WAS RIGHT, THOUGH. I WOULD'VE *LOST IT* EVENTUALLY. HE WOULD'VE TAKEN CONTROL AGAIN. I WAS STILL *SICK.*

SO I DECIDED IT HAD TO END.

HA HA HA HA HA HA

LET'S ROLL THAT CLIP--

HOLD THE POPGUNS, TORK.

I GOT HIM DRENCHED, WRAPPED IN INSULATION AND WEBBED-UP. HE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

OH, NO.

STAN!

CARTER, YOU FOOL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!

STAN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I'VE... WON.

SIN-EATER'S... D-DEAD.

NOW I CAN LIVE...

HE WAS SO FAR GONE... HE THOUGHT SIN-EATER AND HE WERE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

IN THAT CASE...

CARTER HAD THE LAST LAUGH.

HE NEVER LOADED SIN-EATER'S GUN.

NEXT

DON'T MISS THE PULSATING RETURN OF ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S **DEADLIEST** FOES--

THE TARANTULA!!

BE THERE!

WOW. WOW, STAN. POWERFUL STUFF.

AND THE BEST PART IS? IT *WORKED.*

I DON'T EVEN MIND IT HERE VERY MUCH. IT'S NOT SO BAD--

--ONCE YOU GET USED TO THE HEAT.

AWWWWWWW

I *DESERVE* THIS. ALL THE PEOPLE I HURT-- WHAT I DID TO THEM... I DESERVE TO BE *PUNISHED.* TO *SUFFER.* BUT THE TRUTH IS...

...I'VE NEVER FELT MORE *FREE.*

THAT'S VERY NICE, STAN. REALLY IS. BUT WE DO HAVE A SPECIAL *SURPRISE* FOR YOU THIS TIME.

WHAT?

AN *OLD FRIEND* WHO WANTED TO COME BY AND SAY SOME THINGS--

NO-- N-N-NO...

NO.

THAT'S RIGHT--IT'S YOUR OLD *PARTNER!*

PLEASE... DON'T HURT ANYONE.

OH, HE WON'T. HE WON'T EVEN SAY A WORD--

--NOT WITHOUT *YOU.*

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I KNOW. I'VE BEEN WAITING YEARS FOR YOU TO PUT IT TOGETHER, AND YOU NEVER DO. KINDA DISHEARTENING IF I'M HONEST.

YOU KEEP SAYING YOU *DESERVE* THIS, STAN. BUT YOU *DON'T.* YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU WERE *SUPPOSED* TO.

CONFESSION, PENANCE, ABSOLUTION.

YOU DID EVERYTHING TO MAKE IT ALL RIGHT. TO SAVE YOUR SOUL.

DON'T YOU SEE?

OH GOD...

YOU'RE NOT HERE BEING PUNISHED FOR *YOUR* SINS--

--YOU'RE BEING PUNISHED FOR *THEIRS.*

SHE WAS JUST SO *BEAUTIFUL...* AND SHE--SHE *LISTENED* TO ME...

NO...

GOT A *RICKEY HENDERSON* IN THAT PACK. WANNA SEE? NOBODY'S GONNA KNOW...

JUST A LITTLE LIE... TO *PROTECT* HIM...

OH GOD, JEAN-- NO--

THEY *ALL* LIE, THOUGH, DON'T THEY?

SAID IT WAS A *DELUSION.* AN *ILLNESS.* BUT IT WASN'T.

IT WAS A *GIFT.*

TO TAKE THE SINS OF MAN. TO *CLEANSE* THEM. TO CARRY THE *BURDEN* OF THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS SO THAT THEY CAN FLOAT UPWARD, FINALLY FREE. WHAT A *KINDNESS,* THAT SACRIFICE.

YOU *SEE* NOW? YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER. YOU DIDN'T KILL THOSE PEOPLE--

--YOU *SAVED* THEM.

BUT WHAT DID THE WORLD DO TO YOU IN RETURN FOR THIS?

THEY *SCORNED* YOU. LOCKED YOU UP. CURSED YOUR NAME.

JUST LIKE THE SIN EATERS OF OLD. POOR DETECTIVE CARTER...

THAT MUST'VE HURT QUITE BADLY.

YOU SEE, STAN?

YOU REALLY HAD A WONDERFUL LIFE. DON'T YOU SEE WHAT A MISTAKE IT WOULD BE--

--TO JUST THROW IT AWAY?

NOT WHEN I CAN HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DESTINY.

YOUR CALLING.

I CAN RETURN YOU TO THE WORLD THAT SCORNED YOU--

I CAN HELP YOU CLEANSE THEM ALL.

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS ACCEPT IT.

AH, THERE HE IS...MY CHAMPION--

THE SIN-EATER RISES!

44

CAN I JUST SAY HOW *NICE* IT'S BEEN LATELY?

YOU AND ME. JUST THE TWO OF US--

--NOBODY ELSE AROUND TO GET IN THE WAY.

PIZZA

BECAUSE I HAVE *SO MUCH* I WANT TO SHOW YOU, *PETE.*

THERE'S SO MUCH FOR US TO TALK ABOUT.

AND SURE, I'M HOPEFUL--EXCITED, EVEN--ABOUT US MEETING FACE-TO-FACE.

BUT FOR NOW, LET'S JUST *ENJOY* THIS.

VROOOOOMMMM

I'LL SEE YOU IN YOUR DREAMS.

WHAT KIND OF *MUSIC* DO YOU LIKE?

YOU KNOW, MY POWERS MAKE IT SO I CAN *SUPERCHARGE* AND TRICK OUT ANY CAR I TOUCH.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY *CAN'T* DO?

FIX THE RADIO.

CLICK

AH, WELL, RIGHT? POINT IS TO GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING, I GUESS.

GUESS WE CAN PASS THE TIME THE *OLD-FASHIONED* WAY, RIGHT?

TELLING STORIES.

VROOOOOMMMMM

"I'LL START..."

OVERDRIVE, RIGHT? THAT'S YOUR *CODENAME* OR WHATEVER?

YEAH...

THEN *RELAX*, OVERDRIVE.

FOR REAL. YOU KNOW, THEY ALWAYS TELL YOU MONEY DON'T BUY HAPPINESS, BUT WHEN YOU SEE IT IN THE FLESH, IT'S STILL--

SICKENING.

RIGHT. WELL, SPEAKING OF, REALLY LOOKS LIKE YOUR GUY COULD USE A *DOCTOR*.

AND HE'S GONNA GET ONE. THE BEST MEDICINE YOU CAN BUY--

PRIVATE ROOMS, ATTENTIVE NURSES, PLENTY OF PAINKILLERS--

JUST AS SOON AS YOU GET US ACROSS THE BORDER.

UH-HUH. ABOUT THAT-- WE MAY NEED TO REVISIT OUR TERMS.

WHY?

WHY?!

YOU JUST KILLED A DOZEN COPS, YOU STUPID #$%&!

OH, RIGHT. THAT.

ARE YOU STILL STUCK ON THIS? DUDE, STOP--YOU CAN KEEP MOPING AROUND LIKE THIS, BUT IT WON'T BRING 'EM BACK.

BETTER TO MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE. THAT'S WHAT THEY'D WANT.

HE'S RIGHT. BUT HEY--

--IF YOU'RE THAT UPSET, MAYBE YOU SHOULD DONATE YOUR CUT TO THE POLICE WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OR SOMETHING.

YEAH, GIVE IT TO *ME*, I'LL MAKE SURE THEY GET IT. MIGHT EVEN KICK IN A LITTLE MYSELF.

IDIOTS.

ROBBING A CASH BUSINESS IS A PLAN.

KILLING A DOZEN POLICE OFFICERS ON YOUR WAY OUT THE DOOR IS *SUICIDE*. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THE KIND OF HEAT YOU'RE GONNA BRING DOWN ON--

--US.

WHAT THE HELL?

VRRROOOOOOOOOOOM

I TRIED TO TELL THEM.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT DO YOU *THINK* HAPPENED? THEY *FOUND* US.

OH GOD, PLEASE DON'T BE THE PUNISHER. IT'S THE PUNISHER, ISN'T IT?

NO. I'M NOT HERE TO PUNISH ANYONE.

I JUST WANT YOU TO *CONFESS*.

WHOZZAT?!

CONFESS SO THAT YOU MAY BE *CLEANSED.*

I DON'T MEAN *YOU* THREE. IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU.

THAT SO? WHAT YOU GONNA DO, SKI MASK?

OH, *I'M* NOT GOING TO DO *ANYTHING.*

YOU CALL YOURSELVES "INNER DEMONS." *HUH.*

YOU DON'T KNOW THE *HALF* OF IT.

YOUR SINS ARE SO MANY.

YOU FEEL THEM, DON'T YOU?

NFFF

CRAWLING ALL OVER YOU. UNDERNEATH YOU.

DYING TO COME OUT.

THIS IS WHAT THEY DO TO YOU, YOU KNOW...

WAIT 'TIL YOU'RE ACROSS THE BORDER, KILL ALL THREE AND TAKE THE MONEY.

THEY WEIGH YOU DOWN, AND EVENTUALLY--

THEY *DEVOUR* YOU.

DADDY? WHERE'S DADDY? WHY ISN'T HE COMING HOME?

IS HE WITH MOMMY NOW?!

SKAAA

"I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SAY THIS, BUT--"

--I WISH TO GOD IT HAD BEEN THE PUNISHER.

YOU CAN BE CLEANSED.

YEAH...

APPRECIATE THE OFFER--

CRASH

--BUT I GOT A PLANE TO CATCH.

"I WAS LUCKY.

"I'D GOTTEN AWAY.

"BARELY.

"I *TOLD* MYSELF I'D GOTTEN AWAY.

"I PUT THE PEDAL TO THE FLOOR, LIT OUT OF THERE LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL."

VROOOOOOMMMMM

AND I KEPT SAYING TO MYSELF, OVER AND OVER--IT'S LIKE I COULD FEEL IT--

"'DON'T LOOK BACK.'

"I NEEDED A BETTER RIDE--SOMETHING THAT COULD GET ME OFF THE ISLAND. BUT EVERY TIME I TRIED, HE WAS *THERE.*

"EVERY TIME I STOPPED, OR EVEN SLOWED DOWN--

"HE WAS RIGHT ON MY TAIL.

"GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER--"

--AND CLOSER.

I CAN'T KEEP AHEAD OF HIM FOR MUCH LONGER.

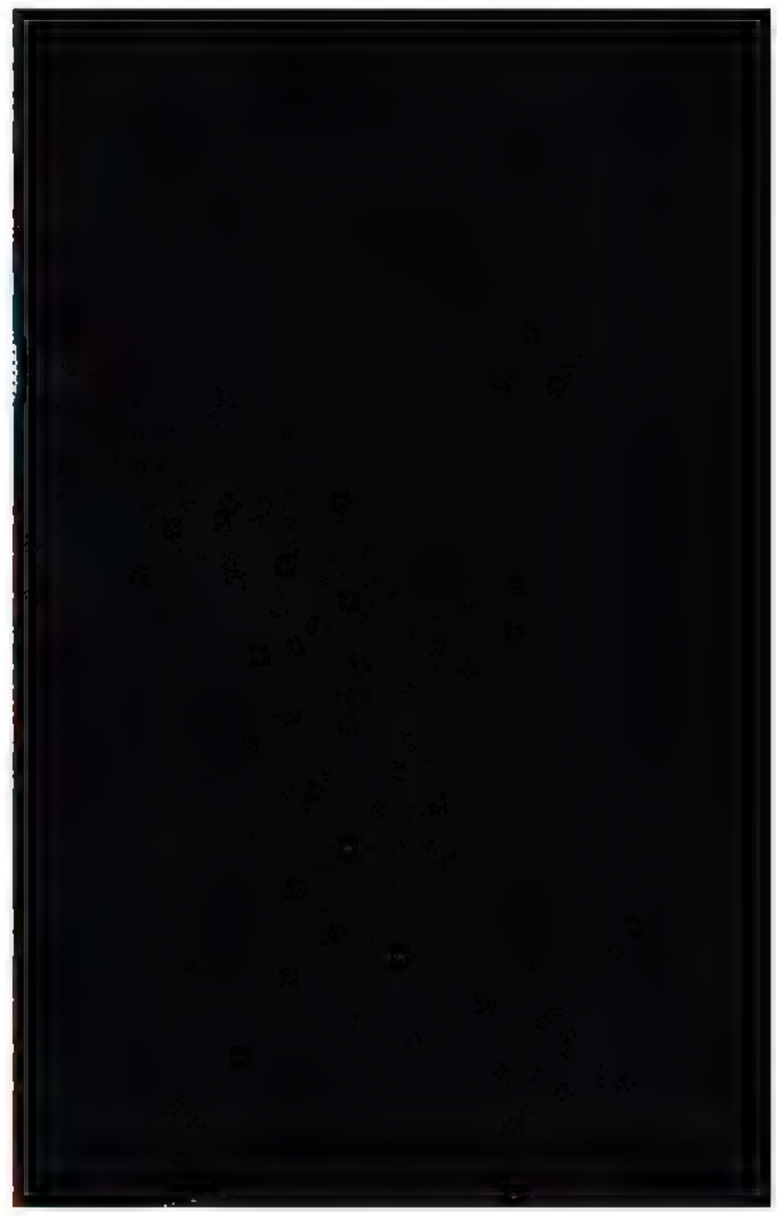
VVRRROOOOOOOOOMMM

"HE ALMOST HAD ME AT THE TUNNEL.

"AFTER THAT, I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO.

MMMM

CRASH



MJ, HEY, IT'S ME.

LISTEN, I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA BE AWAY FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT YOU WERE OKAY.

AND I GET THAT--I *TRUST* YOU. IT'S JUST--

--I'M NOT SURE *I'M* OKAY.

I'M NOT SLEEPING GREAT. AND EVEN WHEN I'M AWAKE, THINGS JUST FEEL... WRONG.

THEY HAVE EVER SINCE--

--EVER SINCE YOU LEFT.

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I'M GLAD YOU WENT--

OR NOT *GLAD*, BUT-- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I'M HAPPY YOU GOT THIS CHANCE. I WANNA SUPPORT YOU HOWEVER I CAN.

"IT'S JUST--THAT NIGHT I SHOWED UP AT YOUR PLACE, AFTER MYSTERIO ATTACKED WITH THAT FAKE ALIEN INVASION? I MEANT WHAT I SAID--

"--IT'S GETTING HARDER TO DO THIS WITHOUT YOU."

THE OTHER DAY I DID THIS...PODCAST WITH JONAH. DON'T ASK.

HE SAID SOME STUFF THAT KINDA HIT HOME. OKAY, SURE, IT'S *JONAH*, SO IT WASN'T TOTALLY ACCURATE, BUT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW I KEEP PEOPLE AT A DISTANCE.

HOW I PRETEND IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THEM TO GET HURT--

--BUT THE TRUTH IS MORE *COMPLICATED* THAN THAT.

THERE WAS THIS TIME, AFTER WE BROKE UP, I'D GOTTEN IN SUPER LATE FROM PATROL, AND JUST CRASHED--PASSED OUT AS SOON AS I GOT THROUGH THE WINDOW.

THE NEXT MORNING, I WOKE UP, RUNNING LATE LIKE ALWAYS, SO I THREW ON SOME CLOTHES AND WENT TO RUN OUT THE DOOR, AND I ALMOST DIDN'T CATCH IT 'TIL I WAS OUTSIDE.

I STILL HAD MY *MASK* ON.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE. BUT JUST, AS TIME WENT ON, THE HOURS I WAS SPIDER-MAN KEPT GOING UP. THE HOURS I WAS JUST PETER PARKER KEPT GOING DOWN.

I TELL MYSELF, HEY, MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. PEOPLE ARE COUNTING ON ME, THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT. IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN, I DUNNO...

GROCERY SHOPPING. READING A BOOK. GOING FOR A WALK.

THIS THING I DO, IT JUST... IT TAKES AND TAKES AND TAKES. AND I AM SO AFRAID...

I AM SO AFRAID IT'S GONNA SWALLOW ME WHOLE.

"I HAVE TO PUT THE MASK ON. I KNOW THAT. OTHERWISE, PEOPLE DIE. I HAVE A ***RESPONSIBILITY.***

"BUT I ***NEED*** YOU, MJ."

I NEED A REASON TO TAKE THE MASK OFF.

HEY, I'M SORRY, I KNOW THAT'S KINDA HEAVY. LIKE I SAID, I--I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL. AND HONESTLY, I'M JUST AMAZED YOUR VOICE MAIL HASN'T CUT ME OFF.

I GUESS JUST--THERE WAS THIS THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU BEFORE YOU LEFT. I MEAN, BEFORE I MESSED EVERYTHING UP AND MISSED YOU LEAVING. YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND--

--WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU GET BACK.

I LOVE YOU. TALK TO YOU S--

FWIP

HKKK--

YOU'RE DYING.

FEELS WEIRD, RIGHT?

I KNOW EVERYBODY ALWAYS SAYS YOU START TO FEEL COLD, BUT...THAT'S NOT WHAT I REMEMBER.

THEN AGAIN, I SUPPOSE MY SITUATION WAS FAIRLY *UNIQUE*.

BUT I WANTED YOU TO EXPERIENCE THIS SO THAT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS I AM.

AND I WANTED TO BE SURE YOU KNEW...

...THERE IS NO STOPPING THIS.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHO I AM.

IT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT.

BUT THE REAL QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING IS, WHAT DO I WANT?

SIGH

NOT GONNA LIE--THAT DIDN'T FEEL AS GOOD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD. BUT THEN, THAT SHOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE--

THIS IS JUST A *DREAM*, RIGHT?

OUT THERE, THOUGH, OUT IN THE WAKING WORLD, I'VE PREPARED SOMETHING FOR YOU.

SOMETHING TRULY *SINISTER.*

AND IF YOU WANT TO STOP IT, THEN YOU WILL DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU TO.

I'M SORRY THAT IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY.

AND I'M ALSO SORRY FOR THE DIRTY TRICKS. I MEAN, A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM? WHAT A CHEAT.

"BUT HEY, IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION-- IT WASN'T YOUR DREAM."

45

SINS RISING PART 1

WHEN I WAS A KID, ALL I WANTED TO BE WAS A COP LIKE MY DAD.

HE SEEMED TO BE TEN FEET TALL, STRONG AS ROCK. GOING OUT EVERY DAY TO CATCH BAD GUYS AND PROTECT THE INNOCENT.

AS I GOT A LITTLE OLDER, I REALIZED THE JOB HE DID AS A POLICE FORENSIC EXAMINER WAS A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT... BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT OR HEROIC.

EXIT

SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE WERE WHEN HE WOULD SNEAK ME INTO THE LAB TO "HELP" HIM WITH A COLD CASE.

OF COURSE THAT ALL ENDED THE DAY HIS CAR SKIDDED OFF THE ROAD AND INTO A TREE.

I WAS *DEVASTATED.* MY HERO WAS GONE...

BUT THE DREAM I HAD OF FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS DIDN'T DIE WITH HIM--

AND AS SOON AS I GRADUATED, I ENLISTED IN THE POLICE ACADEMY.

LIFE MOVED PRETTY FAST FROM THERE.

I MET A GUY, FELL IN LOVE. THINGS SEEMED PRETTY GREAT...

UNTIL I LEARNED THE GUY WAS ACTUALLY *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* OF ALL PEOPLE. AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT WASN'T THE BIGGEST SURPRISE I GOT.

NO, THAT HAD TO BE LEARNING THAT MY DEARLY DEPARTED DAD WASN'T SO DEPARTED AFTER ALL.

WHEN I LEARNED HE'D FAKED HIS DEATH BECAUSE HE WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH THE MASKED CRIMINAL MYSTERIO. YEAH...

...TURNS OUT THE GUY WASN'T SUCH A HERO TO BEGIN WITH.

AFTER THAT, THINGS GOT...PRETTY DARK.

I WAS SINKING INTO THIS WORLD OF WEIRD COSTUMES AND POWERS. ONCE I HAD A NASTY RUN-IN WITH THE GOBLIN SERUM, I KNEW I'D HAD ENOUGH.

SO I LEFT. HEADED SOUTH.

I WONDER...WHY WAS I THINKING ABOUT *MY* LIFE JUST NOW?

BEGIN DICTATION-- THIS IS DETECTIVE CARLIE COOPER, NYPD FORENSIC DIVISION--

I MEAN, I DO HAVE A JOB TO DO.

--CASE NUMBER 0087-43156. INITIAL OBSERVATIONS--

OKAY, OBVIOUSLY THE LEAVING DID NOT STICK.

I GUESS I JUST GOT TIRED OF RUNNING. THE DEPARTMENT WAS WILLING TO GIVE ME MY JOB BACK--

--BUT I KNEW I NEEDED *MORE.*

I FOUND A SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE WHO OFTEN FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE SIDE OF SUPER HERO BUSINESS--

--WHICH IN TURN LED TO STRIKING UP A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH ANOTHER AMAZING SPIDER-EX (AND ONCE AGAIN CURRENT).

LIFE SLOWLY GOT BACK TO NORMAL.

WELL, AS NORMAL AS IT GETS FOR *ME*, I GUESS. AT THE VERY LEAST--

SIGH LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT.

--HERE'S HOPING FOR NO MORE SURPRISES.

'TIS SWEET AND COMMENDABLE IN YOUR NATURE, HAMLET, TO GIVE THESE MOURNING DUTIES TO YOUR FATHER--

I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL LATELY.

IT'S THESE *DREAMS* I'VE BEEN HAVING. I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER THEM. JUST *FLASHES.*

SLITHERING.

CRASHING.

SINKING.

YEAH, NOT VERY PLEASANT. I GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH--

BUT YOU MUST KNOW YOUR FATHER LOST A FATHER; THAT FATHER LOST, LOST HIS--

--AND THE SURVIVOR BOUND IN FILIAL OBLIGATION FOR SOME TERM TO DO OBSEQUIOUS SORROW. BUT TO PERSEVERE--

--THIS IS HELPING.

AND I GET WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING--WHAT IS *PETER PARKER,* KNOWN DROWSER-OFFER DOING SOAKING UP SOME *SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK* ON A FRIDAY EVENING? WELL--

--I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ALONE.

THERE WAS A *PLAN.*

MJ WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BACK IN TOWN, HYPING UP HER NEW MOVIE.

SO I MADE A RESERVATION AT THE BEST RESTAURANT IN TOWN, WHERE I WOULD PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT I WAS ORDERING--

--AND THEN I WAS GONNA TAKE HER *HERE.* HER *FAVORITE.* SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK.

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW-- GREAT PLAN, PARKER.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE BEST PART. NO, THE BEST PART--

YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND THE BEST PART.

SIR, ARE YOU WAITING FOR--

NOPE, IT'S JUST ME. THANKS.

JUST ME *INDEED.*

MJ HAD SOMETHING COME UP, HAD TO CANCEL--AND I GOTTA SAY, IT'S ALMOST REFRESHING TO EXPERIENCE THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THAT--

--BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE THIS STING ANY LESS.

HARD TO LET THIS STUFF GO TO WASTE SEEING AS IT REPRESENTS THE ABSOLUTE LAST PENNIES OF THE *UPER HERO-SHARE* FUNDS. AND SURE, I TRIED TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO COME ALONG...

BUT *AUNT MAY'S* AT A FUNDRAISER FOR THE F.E.A.S.T. CENTER, *RANDY'S* OUT WITH HIS SECRET SUPER VILLAIN GIRLFRIEND (WE SHOULD REALLY HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT) AND *BOOMERANG* IS--

--WELL, OKAY, I WAS NEVER GONNA INVITE BOOMERANG. BESIDES, HE'S BUSY WATCHING OUR NEW MINIATURIZED *GIANT MONSTER HOUSE PET.*

SO YEAH, HERE I AM ON MY OWN WALKING MYSELF THROUGH THE PERFECTLY PLANNED *BIG DATE* LIKE IT'S A *HAUNTED HOUSE. MORBID,* RIGHT?

TRUTH IS, THIS KINDA LINES UP WITH HOW I'VE BEEN FEELING LATELY.

SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE, BUT... *ALONE.* ISOLATED. IT'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE SHE LEFT FOR LOS ANGELES.

NOT GONNA LIE, SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE DETERMINED TO KEEP ME AND MJ--

--APART.

LOOK OUT!

WAIT--IS THAT... OVERDRIVE?!

THE GUY WHOSE POWERS MEAN HE CAN TURN ANY VEHICLE INTO A SUPER-CHARGED SPEEDSTER IS NOW *MOWING DOWN* PEOPLE IN THE STREETS?!

THIS ISN'T HIS STYLE AT ALL. WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER A FEW TIMES WHEN HE WAS WORKING FOR *MR. NEGATIVE* OR BOOMERANG'S CUT-RATE *SINISTER SIX*. HE WAS ALWAYS A SMALL-TIMER, IN IT FOR THE MONEY--

THE *DREAM*-- WAS THAT--

--BUT THEN, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE...

IT WAS *HIM!*

T-THANK YOU!

OKAY--SNAP OUT OF IT, PARKER--

--PEOPLE ARE IN *DANGER!*

GUY IS PLOWING RIGHT THROUGH A BLOCK PARTY AT TOP SPEED.

AND THESE STREETS ARE WAY TOO PACKED FOR FOLKS TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.

GOTTA MOTOR TO CATCH UP, GET SOME ANSWERS--

--BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT.

EXCUSE ME, SIR, DO YOU KNOW HOW FAST YOU WERE GOING BACK TH--

OH, THANK GOD IT'S *YOU!*

OKAY, NOT THE *USUAL* RESPONSE, BUT LET'S ROLL WITH IT.

SURE IS, BUDDY. NOW, WHY DON'T YOU PULL OVER, AND WHATEVER YOU STOLE, WE CAN *RETURN* IT. MOST OF THESE PLACES GIVE YOU AT LEAST THIRTY DA--

I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING! I MEAN--I *DID*, BUT THAT'S NOT--OR MAYBE IT IS--*IT DOESN'T MATTER!* I CAN'T STOP--

--HE WON'T STOP *CHASING* ME!

HE'S *SCARED.* IN TROUBLE. WORK WITH THAT.

OVERDRIVE, LISTEN TO ME--IF SOMEONE'S AFTER YOU, I CAN HELP, ALL RIGHT? YOU JUST NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THESE CIVILIANS!

I'M *TRYING!*

I CAN'T STOP. I *CAN'T SLOW DOWN.*

EVERY TIME I DO--

--HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME.

ALL RIGHT, WHAT'S THE *DEAL* HERE? WHOEVER THIS IS, THEY'VE REALLY PUT THE FEAR OF--

PLEASE

DON'T BE HIM

PLEASE DON'T BE

ALL-STAR

CLOSE-OUT SALE

DIAMOND SALE

415B

SALE

THREE DAYS... HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME FOR *THREE DAYS*...

I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM. I CAN'T GO ANY FASTER. IT'S *TOO LATE*--

--HE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

HOTDOGS

BEER

ALARM
CHOOM

THOSE KIDS--RIGHT IN THE PATH.

GOTTA MOVE--

--FAST.

NOT PERFECT, BUT--

PAPAS PIZZA

GYRO

--THEY'RE SAFE. NOW--

KA-CHOOM!

THIS ALREADY HAPPENED.

I DREAMED THIS.

AM I DREAMING NOW?

WHY CAN'T I TELL THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE?

NO.

GO.

WAKE UP.

PULL IT TOGETHER.

THIS IS REAL.

MY FAULT-- THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...

NNFF-- HOLD ON-- I GOT YOU.

I DESERVE THIS.

WEB-SHOOTERS JAMMED UP IN THE COLLISION. NO EASY OUT.

GOTTA GET *CLEAR*--GET AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT--

--AND FIND SOMEPLACE TO *HIDE.*

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HELPING ME...

NGG-- DON'T MENTION IT, O.D. I KNOW YOU'D *NEVER* DO THE SAME FOR *ME*...

THEN AGAIN, WHO'S TO SAY I'M *HELPING?* GREAT PLAN, SPIDEY--A SERIAL KILLER IS AFTER YOU--

--SO YOU SHOULD *DEFINITELY* HEAD STRAIGHT INTO THE DARK, ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION SITE.

WHY DO YOU THINK MJ MADE YOU WATCH ALL THOSE HORROR MOVIES ANYWAY?

I NEVER EVEN *WANTED* TO BE A BAD GUY, YOU KNOW THAT? WANTED TO BE--

--WANTED TO BE LIKE *YOU.*

YEAH? WELL, TRUST ME, BUDDY, IT'S A LITTLE *OVERRATED.*

THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK. NOT GONNA GET AWAY FROM THIS GUY. GOTTA FACE HIM HEAD-ON.

I JUST NEEDED THE *MONEY...*

YOU STAY RIGHT HERE, OKAY? STAY LOW, DON'T MOVE.

SPIDEY, PLEASE... YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME.

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO GET HURT.

OH MAN, OVERDRIVE...

WHAT THE HECK DID YOU GET YOURSELF INTO?

YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM TO ME, SPIDER-MAN.

I KEEP WANTING TO BELIEVE IT ISN'T HIM.

WITH ALL THE BAD GUYS PASSING THROUGH THE REVOLVING DOOR OF DEATH, I'LL ADMIT I WAS REALLY HOPING *HIS* WOULD STICK.

THE SIN-EATER.

THE MASKED PSYCHOPATH WHO MURDERED JEAN DEWOLFF AND TWO OTHER INNOCENT PEOPLE.

HE WAS ACTUALLY STAN CARTER, A POLICE DETECTIVE WHO FOOLED EVERYONE-- *INCLUDING ME.*

HIS RAMPAGE NEARLY TOOK THE LIFE OF MY GOOD FRIEND BETTY BRANT.

THAT SENT ME INTO A RAGE. I HONESTLY THINK I MIGHT'VE CROSSED THE LINE WITH THIS GUY--

--UNTIL DAREDEVIL STOPPED ME.

CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN. GOTTA KEEP MY COOL, STAY IN FRONT OF HIM.

THAT REALLY *IS* YOU, ISN'T IT, STAN?

I MEAN, I SEE YOU GOT YOUR *BADGE* ON YOU.

HH-- THAT?

THAT'S NOT HIS BADGE.

NEW YORK
DEWOLFF
NY

OKAY, THAT DIDN'T WORK.

I AM NOT GOOD WITH *DEATH*, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

I FACE KILLERS ALL THE TIME.

EVEN SOME WHO HAVE TAKEN PEOPLE I LOVED.

AND I FIND WAYS TO FIGHT WHAT IT BRINGS OUT IN ME.

I RESIST THAT IMPULSE TO BECOME LIKE THEM.

WHAT I DO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT *JUSTICE*, NOT *REVENGE*, RIGHT?

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GUY-- THE *CRUELTY*, THE *SENSELESSNESS*--THAT GOT DEEP DOWN UNDER MY SKIN IN THE WORST WAY.

AND FOR WHATEVER REASON, I FIND IT EVEN HARDER TO KEEP THAT ANGER DOWN. I LOSE CONTROL.

AND WHEN I LOSE CONTROL--

P-P-P-PLEASE, SPIDER-MAN-- I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.

--PEOPLE GET *HURT*.

THIS IS THE OTHER PART OF THE SIN-EATER'S STORY. THE PART I'D LIKE TO FORGET...

AFTER HE WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED, STAN WAS TREATED AND RELEASED.

THE DOCTORS SAID HE WAS NO LONGER A THREAT TO ANYONE.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I WAS STILL SO ANGRY. SO I WENT AND *CONFRONTED* HIM.

IT DIDN'T GO WELL.

NOT LONG AFTER, HE--HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

HE BAITED THE POLICE INTO SHOOTING HIM, BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'VE ALWAYS FELT AT LEAST *PARTLY* RESPONSIBLE.

IT'S SOMETHING I'VE TRIED TO *BURY*. BUT NOW IT'S AT THE FRONT OF MY MIND, *SCREAMING* AT ME.

STUPID.

SLOWING ME DOWN.

NNN--I'M SORRY, STAN... I KNOW I *FAILED* YOU--

STAN'S NOT THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT. AND NO APOLOGY IS NECESSARY.

IN FACT, I SHOULD BE *THANKING* YOU--

--THIS TWISTED WORLD WOULD HAVE ME BELIEVE I WAS DELUDED, *INSANE.* BUT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE FIRES OF HELL THAT MY TRUE PURPOSE WAS REVEALED. DON'T YOU SEE?

I REALLY *AM* THE SIN-EATER. I HAVE BEEN SENT TO RESCUE THE LOST SOULS, THE ONES WHO CANNOT BE SAVED--

--I AM HERE TO *CLEANSE* THEM.

STAN, YOU POOR, SICK FOOL. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAME BACK, BUT... NOTHING'S CHANGED. AND I HATE THAT MY WORST FEARS ABOUT YOU WERE RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE A CALLING, YOU NEVER DID--

YOU'RE JUST A *MURDERER!*

KA-THUD

HOGGWURTS ELECTRCA

THAT'S ALL YOU *WANT* TO SEE. I DO WHAT I AM *COMMANDED* TO DO! I *ALWAYS* HAVE! YET STILL YOU CALL ME *STANLEY*-- THE LUNATIC, THE *COP KILLER.*

AND YET HERE *YOU* ARE, PROTECTING THE DRIVER, WHEN HIS SINS ARE SO MUCH *WORSE!*

NFFF-- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK *HIM*?!

ASK HIM ABOUT THE *NINE DEAD POLICEMEN AND -WOMEN!* ASK HIM ABOUT THE *CHILDREN* WHO LOST THEIR *FAMILIES!*

WAIT--THE POLICE KILLINGS ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE THAT WERE ALL OVER THE NEWS?

NOBODY HAD ANY LEADS, BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN...

LOOK, CARTER-- WHATEVER IT IS OVERDRIVE HAS DONE, HE'S GIVEN UP. HE'LL FACE A *JURY*, NOT *YOU.*

HH. NOW WHO'S THE FOOL?

HE'LL NEVER FACE JUSTICE. HE'S A *COWARD.* HE WON'T EVER TRY TO REPENT.

ALL HE'LL DO IS *RUN.*

NO!

BLAM

NO!

HEY--HEY, IT'S OKAY, JUST HOLD ON--

YOU *BELIEVE* ME, RIGHT? WHAT I TOLD YOU?

Y-YEAH, I BELIEVE YOU. BUT YOU GOTTA *RELAX*, OKAY? DON'T TRY TO--

D-DOESN'T MATTER. I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.

IT FEELS GOOD TO STOP RUNNING...

YOU SEE NOW? HIS SIN WAS *COWARDICE.*

HE CARRIED IT WITH HIM TO THE END WHEN I *FREED* HIM OF IT.

WHATEVER HE DID-- HE DIDN'T DESERVE *THIS.*

YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I ONLY DID HIM A *KINDNESS.*

I HAVE FREED HIM FROM HIS SINS.

I HAVE TAKEN THEM AS *MY OWN.*

RIGHT.

AND NOW I'M GUESSING YOU WANNA DO *ME* A KINDNESS, TOO.

NO. YOU'LL FACE YOUR SINS, BUT NOT WITH *ME.*

THE ONE WHO CALLED ME, THE ONE WHO...

HE HAS A *PLAN* FOR YOU, TOO.

I'M JUST HERE TO MAKE READY THE PATH.

I'LL SEE YOU SOON, SPIDER-MAN.

THE WORK IS NOT YET DONE.

"NOT YET DONE."

THE WORDS KEEP CRAWLING AROUND IN MY HEAD.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CARTER WANTS--OR WHERE HE'LL TURN UP NEXT. BUT I CAN ALREADY TELL--

--THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE FROM HERE.

I NEED TO WAKE UP. SNAP OUT OF THIS FOG I'VE BEEN IN.

BECAUSE I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING, AWFUL AS THIS IS--

--THAT SOMETHING ELSE IS LURKING BEHIND ALL OF THIS.

STOP LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER, SPIDEY.

THE SIN-EATER IS BACK. AND WHEREVER HE GOES--

--DEATH FOLLOWS.

JAMES BEVERLEY-- AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE, AGE THIRTY-TWO--CAUSE OF DEATH, GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE CHEST.

ONE SMALL PROBLEM THERE...

THE WOUND IS... GONE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT. WHEN HE WAS BROUGHT IN, IT WAS STILL THERE. I SAW IT MYSELF.

AHHHH!

W-W-WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!

46

SINS RISING PART 2

IT WAS A SYMPOSIUM ON *RENEWABLE RESOURCES*--

--ONE OF THE BIGGEST THAT E.S.U. HAD EVER HOSTED. FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE ON HAND. MOST OF THEM THERE TO GET A LOOK AT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL--

DR. CURT CONNORS, EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

"IT'S CALLED THE *CATALYST.*

"*PROJECT PEGASUS* DEVELOPED IT. IT'S THE MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SINCE *NUCLEAR.*"

WITH THAT, WE'D LIKE TO BEGIN WITH A QUICK DEMONSTRATION--

YES, INDEED, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. A DEMONSTRATION *IS* IN ORDER.

IT MIGHT NOT BE THE ONE YOU EXPECTED--

--BUT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE THE *FULL POTENTIAL* OF THIS DEVICE REALIZED.

GO, MEN--

--*SECURE MY GODHOOD!*

WHAT BEAUTY...

FOR YEARS, THESE POWERS THAT GRANT ME IMMORTALITY HAVE FORCED ME TO FEED LIKE A VAMPIRE...

BUT WITH THIS... I WILL BE FREE.

I LOOKED THEM UP AFTERWARD-- I GUESS THEY'RE CALLED THE *LETHAL LEGION?*

"IT FITS."

ANGIE BAEZ, STUDENT.

"I WAS FOUR BUILDINGS AWAY. AS SOON AS I HEARD THE ALARM, I RUSHED OVER."

MAYBE IF I'D GOTTEN THERE A LITTLE SOONER...

AND I GET WHAT YOU'RE THINKING--

MURDEROUS SUPER VILLAINS ON A RAMPAGE. JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR HIM, RIGHT?

I HAVE NEVER BEEN THAT AFRAID IN MY *LIFE.*

DR. ELBERT SCHOENFELD, RESEARCHER.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, ALMOST AS SOON AS THE FIGHTING STARTED, SOMETHING WAS WRONG. JUST--

"--OFF.

ZZZZZZZZZZPPPP

"I WAS MOVING *SLOWLY.* DISTRACTED, LIKE MY MIND WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE.

"AND I WISH I COULD SAY I DIDN'T KNOW WHY, BUT THE TRUTH IS, IT WAS *OBVIOUS--*

"--I WAS STILL BACK *THERE.*

"IN THAT GARAGE, WITH *OVERDRIVE*, WATCHING HIM DIE. HEARING THE SIN-EATER'S WORDS BEFORE HE VANISHED.

POLICE DO NOT CROSS

"'MY WORK HERE IS NOT YET DONE.'

FREEZE!

WHOA!

HOLY!

"I COULD SENSE IT, FEEL IT IN MY *BONES.*

"HE WASN'T JUST COMING--

AAAHHH!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

CRACK

"--HE WAS ALREADY HERE.

BLAM

NO...

THUMP

NOT NOW.

"I REALIZED THEN, HE WAS NEVER GONNA STOP.

"HE WOULD KEEP *FOLLOWING* ME, AND ANY TIME I TRIED TO DO SOMETHING--STOP SOMEONE, *SAVE* SOMEONE--HE WOULD BE THERE.

"THERE TO HURT, TO KILL--

"--IN THE NAME OF SOME *DERANGED CALLING.*

"THERE TO *HAUNT* ME FOR THE THINGS I'D DONE.

BLAM

NO!

"HE'D TOLD ME HE WAS *CLEANSING* THEM.

FWHAP

"I JUST ASSUMED HE MEANT HE WAS *KILLING* THEM. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE FLOWERY WITH THE LANGUAGE.

"BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE THAT I REALIZED THE WHOLE TRUTH. HE WASN'T JUST TAKING THEIR *SINS*--

"--HE WAS TAKING THEIR *POWERS.*

I WANT YOU...

...TO *WATCH.*

"I HAVEN'T FELT THAT HELPLESS IN A LONG TIME.

"I HAD TO STARE, FROZEN.

"AS HE *BUTCHERED* THEM.

NO-- WAIT--

BLAM!

CURSED INTERLOPERS-- DO THEY NOT *SEE?*

THIS IS MY DESTINY-- MY RIGHT--

NNF!

MUST... HURRY...

NO-- PLEASE--

THUMP

I SAID WHO ARE YOU?!

W-WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU-- DAMN YOU! I AM COUNT LUCHINO NEFARIA AND I--

--I D-D-DEMAND YOUR--FF--

--MFFFF...

"IT WAS *HORRIFIC. BRUTAL.* I'VE SEEN A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS--BUT THIS WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

"AND I REMEMBER THINKING ABOUT ALL THESE POOR PEOPLE, TRAPPED IN HERE, SEEING THIS.

BLAM

"I WAITED TO HEAR A SCREAM. TO SEE THEM RUN FOR THE EXITS."

I WAITED.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

YOUR WAY IS FINISHED. PEOPLE WANT SOMETHING BETTER.

SOMETHING MORE *PURE.*

CRRRKKKK

SOON THEY'LL BE READY TO RECEIVE MY GIFT.

FWOOSH

KR SH

THIS IS *RORY MATTHIESON.* HE WAS--HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND. HE LOVED THIS STUFF. SCIENCE.

HE BEGGED ME TO COME TO THIS THING. AND WHEN THEY BUSTED IN, HE TRIED TO SHIELD ME, AND THE GUY WITH THE BUZZ SAWS, HE--

AND YOU'RE SERIOUSLY ASKING ME WHY I *APPLAUDED?*

SARAH CRAWLEY, BARTENDER.

AM I *ASHAMED* THAT I DID? I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS A FEW YEARS AGO, I WOULD'VE BEEN.

BUT THESE ARE DANGEROUS, DANGEROUS TIMES.

DAN WESTMEYER, ADMINISTRATOR.

DUDE WAS *AWESOME,* YOU ASK ME. HE'S LIKE THE *PUNISHER,* RIGHT?

BUT THE PUNISHER'S A *REGULAR GUY.* THIS ONE CAN ACTUALLY GET THE JOB DONE.

JON PORTER, STUDENT.

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT. I MEAN, I GET *SOME* OF IT. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T--WELL, LOOK, SOMETIMES MY ANGER'S GOTTEN THE BETTER OF ME, AND I'VE WANTED TO SEE SOMEBODY-- YOU KNOW.

BUT TO *CHEER* FOR IT? TO CLAP? WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE *BRUTALLY MURDERED?* THEN AGAIN--

--WE BOTH KNOW IT'S MORE *COMPLICATED* THAN THAT, DON'T WE?

I BEEN AN E.M.T. FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. I'VE SEEN SOME CRAZY THINGS.

AND I SEEN MORE BODIES THAN I KNOW HOW TO COUNT. SO WHEN I TELL YOU THOSE CLOWNS WERE DEAD--

HERB RODRIGUEZ, E.M.T.

"--I MEAN THEY WERE *DEAD.* POINT-BLANK SHOTGUN WOUNDS WILL DO THAT. HELL, HALF THE NEFARIOUS GUY'S HEAD WAS MISSING.

"THEY WOULDN'T LET US IN 'TIL THEY GOT THE MACHINE QUIETED DOWN--BUT SOON AS WE DID, AS SOON AS I GOT TO THE BODY--

"--THE BODY GOT RIGHT BACK UP."

NOW LOOK, I GET IT, THE WORLD'S A DIFFERENT PLACE FOR THESE TYPES. THEY'RE ALWAYS DEAD, THEN ALIVE AGAIN, THEN DEAD AGAIN, THEN--

THAT I CAN FOLLOW. BUT THAT'S NOT THE CRAZY PART.

P-P-PLEASE-- IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

"IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?"

AN HOUR BEFORE THE GUY WAS A *STONE-COLD KILLER.* BUT THE SECOND HE CAME BACK, HE WAS HARMLESS AS A PUPPY. YOU EVER HEARD 'A SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT?

NO--

--NO, I HAVEN'T.

I'LL BE HONEST, MS. WINTERS. I TRIED TO FIGHT HAVING THEM SENT HERE. I THOUGHT THEY BELONGED ON THE RAFT OR SOME BLACK SITE.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, THEY'VE BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE THEY WERE ADMITTED--

--MODEL PATIENTS.

ALL DUE RESPECT, BUT THIS IS *RAVENCROFT.* MODEL PATIENT USUALLY MEANS THEY ONLY KILLED THREE ORDERLIES APIECE THIS WEEK.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

RAVENCROFT.

"THEY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME QUIET, HUDDLED ALONE TOGETHER.

"BUT WHEN THEY TAKE BREAKS FROM THAT, IT'S TO PERFORM RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR THE OTHER PATIENTS.

"THEY HAVEN'T RAISED THEIR VOICES--LET ALONE THEIR FISTS--IN ANGER ONCE SINCE THEY GOT HERE.

"HELL, *WHIRLWIND* ENDED UP IN THE INFIRMARY AFTER SOME OLD ASSOCIATES PAID HIM A VISIT. HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

"DOES THAT SOUND LIKE HIS FILE?"

I NEED TO TALK TO THEM.

NOT A CHANCE. THESE PEOPLE ARE IN TREATMENT. WE HAVE *PROTOCOLS*, YOU KNOW--

NONSENSE, DOCTOR--

--WE BOTH KNOW HOW OFTEN THE RULES ARE BROKEN AROUND HERE.

NORMAN OSBORN...

NORAH WINTERS.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. WHAT WAS IT, A WEEK AGO YOU WERE IN A PADDED CELL DOWN THE HALL? NOW--

--THEY'RE LETTING THE ACTUAL *INMATES* RUN THE *ASYLUM*.

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST TO MAKE THAT JOKE, MS. WINTERS. I EXPECTED BETTER. AS YOU KNOW, I WAS RELEASED WITH A CLEAN BILL OF MENTAL HEALTH.

AND MAYOR FISK DECIDED MY... *INTIMATE* KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PLACE MADE ME THE PERFECT MAN TO CHANGE THE CULTURE OF CHAOS AND INCOMPETENCE THAT HAD PERMEATED IT.

DON'T BE SO CYNICAL, NORAH. AMONG THE MANY THINGS I'M INTENDING TO CHANGE AROUND HERE IS OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THOSE OF YOU IN THE FOURTH ESTATE. SUNLIGHT BEING THE BEST DISINFECTANT AND ALL.

WAIT, ARE YOU SAYING--

YOUR REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW IS *GRANTED*, YES. BUT A WORD OF CAUTION--

--YOU MAY BE TEMPTED TO WRITE ABOUT THIS SIN-EATER'S OTHER-WORLDLY INFLUENCE AND THE EFFECT IT'S HAD ON THE *ETHEREAL SOUL* OF THESE CRIMINALS.

BUT THIS IS A PLACE OF *MEDICINE*, AND I FOR ONE HAVE NO TIME FOR SUPERSTITION. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THEIR SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION IS DUE TO THE EXCELLENT STAFF AND LEADERSHIP OF RAVENCROFT--

--A VIEWPOINT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE FAIRLY REFLECTED IN YOUR ARTICLE, MS. WINTERS. OTHERWISE--

--YOU AND I MIGHT BE HAVING ANOTHER SIT-DOWN OF OUR OWN.

BUT FOR NOW, CONSIDER THE RESOURCES OF THIS INSTITUTION AT YOUR DISPOSAL, NORAH.

INCLUDING THESE FINE SECURITY OFFICERS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AT *ALL* TIMES. TA-TA NOW.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS WISE, SIR?

YOUR IDEAS ARE OF NO CONCERN TO ME, DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR ADHERENCE TO MINE.

UNDERSTOOD, SIR. IT'S JUST--A REPORTER ON THE GROUNDS? FEELS A BIT RISKY--

"--GIVEN OUR *RECENT ARRIVAL*."

W-W-WHAT WAS THE QUESTION, AGAIN?

COUNT NEFARIA

THAT'S THE *THIRD TIME* YOU'VE ASKED ME TO REPEAT MYSELF, NEFARIA.

I A-APOLOGIZE. THE D-DOCTORS SAY I S-SUSTAINED INNER EAR DAMAGE F-F-FROM THE INCIDENT...

THE INCIDENT BEING WHEN THE SIN-EATER SHOT YOU IN THE FACE--WHICH I HAVE TO SAY, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE VERY *UPSET* ABOUT.

U-UPSET-- WHY WOULD I B-BE UP-S-SET?

HE *SAVED* ME.

I W-WAS A VICIOUS, V-VIOLENT FOOL. I SOUGHT I-IMMORTALITY, C-COVETED G-GODHOOD. I K-KILLED IN THE N-NAME OF MY OWN VANITY.

BUT H-HE FREED ME OF ALL THAT. H-HE TOOK MY SINS AS HIS OWN. AND I AM SO TH-THANKFUL HE DID.

IF HE HAD NOT ST-STOPPED ME, I WOULD HAVE H-HURT SO MANY MORE--

WELL, YOU WERE ALREADY RACKING UP QUITE THE TOTAL THAT DAY. POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED NINETEEN FATALITIES--

--WHICH LEADS ME BACK TO THE QUESTION. THESE VICTIMS' FAMILIES ARE GOING TO GREET EVERYTHING YOU SAY WITH SOME WELL-EARNED AND EXTREME SKEPTICISM.

EVERY PRISON IN THIS COUNTRY IS FULL OF GUILTY PEOPLE BEGGING FOR RELEASE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE *REFORMED*, BEEN CHANGED. IS YOUR RHETORIC ANY DIFFERENT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT INVOLVES A VIGILANTE'S MAGIC BULLET?

N-NO-- YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--

I DON'T WANT TO BE R-RELEASED.

I D-DESERVE THIS. *MORE* THAN THIS. I DESERVE TO *S-SUFFER* FOR WHAT I DID.

TH-THERE'RE S-SO MANY THINGS I CAN'T REMEMBER. I--I CAN SEE WHAT I D-DID BUT I C-CAN'T UNDERSTAND W-WHY.

I-IT'S AS THOUGH I'M WATCHING *MYSELF*, AND I KEEP S-SCREAMING "*STOP!* STOP, YOU IDIOT--"

B-BUT THOSE AREN'T THE *LOUDEST* SCREAMS. I C-CAN SEE ALL OF THEM. H-HEAR ALL OF THEM. CRYING. P-PLEADING... *BEGGING* FOR TH-THEIR LIVES. F-FOR *MERCY*...

IT WON'T STOP. EVERY TIME I C-CLOSE MY EYES--THEY'RE *STILL THERE*--IT'S T-TEARING ME APART...

W-WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE *ME*?!

W-WHY WAS I SHOWN M-MERCY AND N-NOT THEM?!

Y-YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE *F-F-FAMILIES.* Y-YOU HAVE TO *TELL* THEM. I WOULD D-D-DO *ANYTHING* TO CHANGE THIS--TO TAKE TH-TH-THEIR PLACE.

PLEASE-- YOU'LL *TELL* THEM?

YOU HAVE TO TELL THEM I'M SORRY!

EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM--ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE *STUTTER*-- THEY'RE JUST LIKE HIM--

"--JUST LIKE HE WAS WHEN HE WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

"BEFORE HE--"

KRUNCH

IT'S A *TRAP*. HE'S *TOYING* WITH ME. BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S DRIVING AT BY DOING IT.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE STAN WAS CURED. SO, WHAT? I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IN *THIS* NOW?

EVERYONE ELSE SURE DOES.

THE VIDEO OF HIM TAKING OUT THE LETHAL LEGION WENT VIRAL. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SAW IT. AND LIKED IT.

AND THEY KEEP SAYING, "WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? HE DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY." TO THEM, HE'S THE GUY THAT'S "CLEANSING" SUPER VILLAINS!

WHO COULD HAVE A PROBLEM WITH *THAT*, RIGHT?

I MEAN, EXCEPT FOR *OVERDRIVE*, HERE.

AND THIS IS WHAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. ALL THE LETHAL LEGION GUYS ARE WALKING AROUND IN PERFECT HEALTH--NO POWERS AND DEFINITELY VERY...*OFF*, SURE, BUT--

OVERDRIVE, THOUGH, SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT. HE'S ON LIFE SUPPORT AND APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SINCE HE GOT... RESURRECTED OR WHATEVER.

CARLIE--YOU WERE THERE WHEN HE WOKE UP, RIGHT? I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM NEXT...

PLEASE--

"--BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT."

YES, JONAH. I'M FINE.

NO, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN. BUT I AM A PROFESSIONAL, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. I CAN HANDLE NORMAN OSBORN.

LOOK, I'M HEADING BACK TO THE OFFICE NOW--YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE THE STORY I GOT OUT OF THIS. AND THE *BEST PART--*

--IS THE *ENDING.*

BLIP!

NORAH WINTERS...

BLAM

47

SINS RISING PART 3

"I USED TO BE AFRAID JUST LIKE *YOU.*

RAVENCROFT.

"AFRAID OF EVERYTHING AROUND ME. BUT EVEN MORE THAN THAT--

"--AFRAID OF WHAT WAS *INSIDE* ME.

"THEY TEACH US TO BE THIS WAY. EVER SINCE THE *GARDEN,* MAN HAS BEEN STEERED BY HIS SHAME AND HIS FEAR OF BEING PUNISHED, THEY SAY. WHAT YOU FEEL IS NATURAL.

"THEY TEACH US THIS BECAUSE IT GIVES THEM *CONTROL.*

"I SPENT A LIFETIME TRYING TO SUBMIT TO THEM. I WANTED SO BADLY TO PLEASE THEM.

"I DIDN'T JUST OBEY THEIR LAWS, I *EXALTED* THEM. I BECAME THEIR WILLING AND ENTHUSIASTIC SERVANT.

"AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY REWARDED MY SERVICE?

"THEY *DEVOURED* ME."

HE'S COMING.

BUT I FOUND **SALVATION** IN THE FIRE. ONE GREATER THAN I COULD **EVER** BE GAVE ME A CALLING. A **MISSION.**

TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF SIN.

SO HERE I AM, **RISEN,** READY TO DO HIS WORK.

BUT THE WORLD AROUND ME IS WORSE THAN EVER. IT HAS BEEN **CORRUPTED** BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION. SOME WOULD SAY IT'S NOT EVEN WORTH SAVING. TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE, THOUGH, I WILL NEED HELP. **YOUR** HELP.

AND IN RETURN, I WILL GIVE YOU THE THING THEY'VE KEPT FROM YOU ALL YOUR LIVES...

I WILL GIVE YOU **POWER.**

CLICK

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, WINTERS.

I REMEMBER THE SIN-EATER FROM THE FIRST TIME AROUND. HE'S ***DANGEROUS.*** HOW DID YOU EVEN GET THIS FOOTAGE?

IT WAS ***EASY,*** JONAH--

NORAH WINTERS--

REEEEAAAHH!

BLAM!

THREATS & MENACES OFFICE.

"--I SHOT HIM."

HNN...

WHOOSH

RELAX, MS. WINTERS-- YOUR SINS ARE MANY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

ISN'T IT *OBVIOUS?*

YOU'VE BEEN TRAIPSING UP AND DOWN THIS CITY TALKING TO EVERYONE ABOUT ME.

WHY NOT ASK ME *DIRECTLY?*

Y-YOU WANT ME TO INTERVIEW YOU...?

I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE.

YOU ARE GOING TO HELP ME SPREAD MY MESSAGE FAR AND WIDE.

HOW COULD I SAY NO?

WINTERS, YOU CAN'T PUT THIS OUT THERE. THIS MAN IS A *MURDERER!* HE KILLED A *POLICE DETECTIVE,* FOR GOD'S SAKE!

A CRIME FOR WHICH HE WAS *INSTITUTIONALIZED.* THEN HE WAS TREATED AND *RELEASED,* REMEMBER?

BUT THIS MESSAGE OF HIS-- *HE'S INCITING VIOLENCE!* YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE HIM A PLATFORM TO SPEW THIS GARBAGE.

SIGH SEE, JONAH? THIS IS WHY PEOPLE DON'T TRUST THE MEDIA ANYMORE. SELF-APPOINTED GATEKEEPERS, DECIDING WHO CAN OR CAN'T BE HEARD.

I SAY LET THE *PUBLIC* DECIDE. SITES LIKE OURS ARE THE NEW TOWN SQUARE.

HRMPH. THEY USED TO HOLD *PUBLIC EXECUTIONS* IN THE TOWN SQUARE.

THEY SURE DID. AND FROM MY UNDERSTANDING--

CLICK

--THEY DREW QUITE A *CROWD.*

I KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE.

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME.

YOU SEE THE SAME SICKNESS, THE SAME DECAY I DO.

SO JOIN ME.

TOGETHER, WE WILL CONFRONT THIS EVIL THAT GROWS AMONG US.

WE WILL RESTORE THIS WORLD TO ITS LOST GLORY.

THE SO-CALLED POWERFUL--THE ONES WHO LECTURE AND LOOK DOWN ON US--WE WILL CLEANSE THEM.

THE WEAK AND THE COWARDLY, THE ONES WHO KNEELED, THEIR ORDER--WE WILL CLEANSE THEM TOO.

WE WILL LET LOOSE OUR RIGHTEOUS ANGER AND BURN THEM IN PURIFYING FIRE.

AND FROM THE ASHES, BUILD SOMETHING BETTER.

5 Av Subway Sta

NONE OF THIS WILL BE EASY.

TO PUT ON THE MASK IS TO CARRY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

BUT YOU WILL NOT SHOULDER THAT BURDEN ALONE.

I WILL BE THERE WITH YOU, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

IF YOU HAVE FELT ALONE, ISOLATED, FORGOTTEN--

--THIS IS YOUR MOMENT.

TOGETHER, OUR WILL WILL BE MADE REAL. TOGETHER--

--WE WILL BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT SIN.

HE'S OFFERING THEM POWER.

AND PEOPLE ARE--WELL, SOME PEOPLE, AT LEAST--THEY'RE *LISTENING.*

I WISH I HAD EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHAT KIND OF GAME THIS PSYCHO IS PLAYING. BUT I KNOW THAT HE'S GETTING THROUGH.

PEOPLE CAN'T FALL FOR THIS. THEY'VE JUST GOTTA SEE WHO HE REALLY IS. WHICH THEY MAYBE WOULD--

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER

--IF I COULD SHOW THEM WHAT HE DID TO *OVERDRIVE.*

HE WAS "CLEANSED" JUST LIKE THE OTHERS, BUT NOW HE'S...

THANK GOD THEY SAY HE'S GONNA PULL THROUGH.

LOOK, CARLIE, I KNOW THIS IS WEIRD--AND I KNOW WE DIDN'T EXACTLY LEAVE THINGS IN THE BEST PLACE-- I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO CALL.

BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME-- *ANYTHING AT ALL--*

PETE, RELAX--

I WANT TO HELP. I REALLY DO.

I CAN TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, SURE--

"--BUT YOU'RE NOT GONNA *LIKE* ANY OF IT.

"--HE *WASN'T.*

"I'M NOT GONNA LIE--HE SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME.

AIIEEE!

"YOU KNOW THE FIRST PART. HE WAS COLD ON THE TABLE. AND THEN SUDDENLY--

"I KNEW WHO HE WAS. I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE WOULD *ATTACK* ME-- OR JUST TRY TO *RUN.* BUT INSTEAD...

PLEASE. I'M SO SORRY-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. LOOK--

--I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, OKAY? I'M *RIGHT HERE.* I JUST-- I NEED YOUR HELP.

HELP? WITH *WHAT?!*

I-I-I NEED TO CONFESS TO A CRIME.

"--I TOOK HIS STATEMENT.

I WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE THE DRIVER. IT ALL HAPPENED SO *FAST.*

"FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THE GUY SEEMED GENUINELY REMORSEFUL.

"SO WHAT WAS I GONNA DO? I CALLED MY SUPERIORS. AND WHILE WE WAITED--

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH--

--WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

HARBOUR, GUTIERREZ, READ HIM HIS RIGHTS. COOPER, YOU COME WITH ME.

"THE COP WHO SHOWED UP--

"'--WE GO BACK A LONG WAY.'"

YOU KNOW THIS HAPPENED TO YOUR *DAD* ONCE, RIGHT?

WHAT?!

YEAH. YOU REMEMBER THAT BARON MORDO GUY? WELL, ONE TIME HE CAST SOME SPELL TO "RAISE THE DEAD" ALL ACROSS THE CITY. YOUR DAD CAME BACK FROM LUNCH, THE WHOLE MORGUE WAS *FULL* OF 'EM.

HE TOLD ME HE GAVE ONE OF 'EM HIS *SANDWICH!*

HAHA!

AHH, WE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES, YOUR DAD AND ME.

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT A PIECE OF #$%& HE TURNED OUT TO BE.

YEAH...ME EITHER.

BUT HEY, THAT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH *YOU*, YOU HEAR ME?

I'M ALWAYS GONNA BE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD ON THIS, KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, YOU'LL BE JUST FINE.

HUH? FOLLOW YOUR LEAD ON W--

OH NO.

THEY SAID IF I'D GOTTEN THERE A MINUTE LATER, HE'D BE DEAD. BUT ALL I KEEP WONDERING IS WHY I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

SOMETHING ABOUT OVERDRIVE ALREADY HAVING BEEN DECLARED *DEAD.*

I TRIED TO REPORT IT, BUT...THEY'RE SAYING THEY'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO *FILE CHARGES* AGAINST THEM.

SO... SIN-EATER DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THIS, BUT PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS PUT ON MASKS BEFORE THEY DO TERRIBLE THINGS. BUT I STILL MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR PROBLEM.

YOU KNOW, WHEN MY DAD TURNED OUT TO BE... WHAT HE WAS, IT WAS A HARD THING FOR ME TO PROCESS.

HERE WAS THIS GUY WHO I HAD *WORSHIPPED*, THAT I HAD THOUGHT WAS THE SALT OF THE EARTH... AND IT TURNS OUT I DIDN'T KNOW HIM *AT ALL.*

ONCE A THING LIKE THAT HAPPENS TO YOU, YOU STOP MAKING *ASSUMPTIONS* ABOUT PEOPLE. YOU STOP JUST TAKING IT FOR GRANTED WHAT EVERYONE'S INTENTIONS REALLY ARE. YOU STOP TRUSTING THE SURFACE.

AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THAT BECOMES SECOND NATURE. ONE DAY, EVERYONE IS ACTING SHOCKED ABOUT SOME HORRIBLE THING THEY JUST SAW ON THE NEWS. THEY CAN'T *BELIEVE* SOMEONE WOULD DO SUCH A THING.

BUT *YOU* CAN BELIEVE IT, *EASILY.* YOU'RE NOT SHOCKED. NOT EVEN A LITTLE.

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU THINK IF YOU SHOW THEM SOME KIND OF PROOF HE'S BAD, IT WILL *CHANGE* THINGS. THAT THEY'VE BEEN MISLED BY SOME CHARISMATIC FORCE, INSTEAD OF JUST GETTING WHAT THEY WANTED ALL ALONG. YOU CAN WAKE THEM UP.

I GET IT, I REALLY DO. YOU THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN THIS. BUT, PETE, LET ME ASK YOU A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION--

--WHAT IF THEY'RE *NOT?*

UNION SQUARE.

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

AM I THE FIRST ONE HERE?

HH--

DOWN AND AROUND THE BACK. MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT THAT ON.

CARLIE'S RIGHT.

I WANT TO BELIEVE THEY'VE BEEN ***BRAINWASHED.*** THAT HE'S USED SOME OCCULT POWER TO LURE THEM HERE.

THE UNCOMFORTABLE REALITY IS HE'S OFFERING THEM A CHANCE TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON OTHERS--

A CHANCE TO ***HURT*** OTHERS--

--AND PLENTY OF PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS LINE UP FOR *THAT.*

WELCOME, MY FRIEND--

--WELCOME *HOME.*

THE GUY IS BUILDING A SMALL ARMY.

ALL OF THEM DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE, TO HIM--

--AND ALL HIDING BEHIND A MASK. BUT THEN, FOR THE MOMENT--

I'M HIDING TOO.

WOW. IT'S REALLY YOU... THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING.

THIS AND MORE...

I PROMISED YOU *STRENGTH*, AND NOW YOU HAVE IT. NOT FROM ME--

--BUT FROM *ONE ANOTHER.*

WHEN THEY SEE YOU STANDING HERE TOGETHER, THEY WILL KNOW THAT EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

BUT YOU MUST ALL REMEMBER... POWER WITHOUT PURPOSE IS *MEANINGLESS.*

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A JOB TO DO. WHAT IS IT WE'RE AFTER?

A WORLD WITHOUT SIN!

THAT'S RIGHT. AND WITH EACH SOUL WE CLEANSE, OUR POWER GROWS. AND WHEN WE HAVE--

PLEASE-- PLEASE, I NEED TO *REACH* HIM. PLEASE--

AND JUST WHEN I THINK THIS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE--

--TURNS OUT WE'RE NOT DONE "WELCOMING" NEW ARRIVALS.

LET HIM THROUGH.

IT'S *TRUE*, ISN'T IT? WHAT THEY SAY YOU CAN DO?

WHAT IS IT THEY SAY?

THAT YOU CAN TAKE AWAY PEOPLE'S SINS-- THAT YOU CAN TAKE THEM ON YOURSELF?

I'VE TRIED TO GET RID OF THIS THING INSIDE ME FOR SO MANY YEARS.

I'VE HURT AND KILLED *SO MANY*. PLEASE-- IF YOU REALLY CAN--

--CLEANSE ME.

YOU SEE? ALL OF YOU? OUR MESSAGE IS WORKING!

THE SICK AND INFESTED WITH SIN BEG US TO SAVE THEM.

WELL, TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY, HEATHEN. I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU--

MERCY.

NO!

THUK

KPPPPPPP

FINALLY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, LET THIS BE A REMINDER TO ALL OF US, BROTHERS AND SISTERS-- THERE WILL ALWAYS BE HERETICS AMONG US.

THOSE WHOSE HEARTS HAVE BEEN HARDENED, WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE--

--NO MATTER HOW MUCH PROOF THEY ARE GIVEN.

THE ONLY PROOF I SEE IS OF HOW SICK YOU ARE, STAN. YOU'RE NOT THESE PEOPLE'S MESSIAH. YOU'RE A MURDERER.

AND YET, YOU KNOW THAT'S A LIE. I'M NOT KILLING ANYONE, I'M TAKING AWAY THEIR SIN.

WHEN YOU DON'T INTERFERE, THAT IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO THEM, BUT I'M SURE I DON'T TRUST IT. AND NEITHER SHOULD ANY OF THESE PEOPLE.

LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE, ALL OF YOU-- THIS GUY--THIS "SIN-EATER" YOU'RE LISTENING TO? HE'S NOTHING BUT A MONSTER.

AND WHATEVER HE'S OFFERING YOU, I PROMISE YOU IT'LL ONLY END IN TEARS.

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT.

THEY'RE DONE WITH YOUR PROMISES. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HERE.

TO JOIN ME. TO RECEIVE MY POWER.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO ANYTHING TO THEM!

THEN TRY TO STOP ME.

WHICH, YEAH--

OHHH

SSSSHHH

--IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

ON HIS OWN, I CAN HANDLE THE SIN-EATER IN A FAIR FIGHT.

NNNN

PPP

BUT NOW-- AFTER HE "CLEANSED" THE LETHAL LEGION AND TOOK THEIR POWERS--

--IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT BALL GAME.

FWOOSH

KRP

WATCH NOW, *ALL OF YOU.*

SOON YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO ALL OF THIS AND MORE.

I'M IN TROUBLE.

HE'S COMING AT ME TOO FAST--

FZZTHUD

--TOO MANY DIRECTIONS--

FZZTHUD

ZZZZLANT

KRAK

--TOO HARD.

THRAK

THIS TIME--

--I'M OUTCLASSED.

WOOF

TRAK!

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, SPIDER-MAN?

YOU THINK YOU'RE *SUPERIOR.*

ABOVE ALL THIS. ABOVE *THEM.*

YOU LOOK AT THEIR FEAR, AND THEIR BLOODLUST WITH DISDAIN. OF COURSE YOU DO. WHY *WOULDN'T* YOU?

YOU SWING UP HIGH THROUGH THE CITY. YOU TEAR DOWN WALLS WITH YOUR BARE HANDS. IT AFFORDS YOU THIS LUXURY.

THE LUXURY TO CALL WHAT I DO UNSEEMLY. TO REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN MY CALLING. TO INSIST I CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FEELING-- HOW *DESPERATE* THEY ARE--

BUT YOU WILL...

YOU SEE, THE ONE WHO CALLED ME, HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOU. I AM JUST HIS VESSEL.

HE TOLD ME WHO TO CLEANSE NEXT--

"--SEE WHAT YOUR SINS HAVE DONE."

HE'S COMING!

THUD

KSSSH

KRAK

RRRRRAAAAAAHHH!

HE'S COMING FOR YOU!

DO YOU HEAR HIS MESSAGE?

HE COMES FOR YOU, NORMAN OSBORN!

TO BE CONTINUED...

#44 MARVEL ZOMBIES VARIANT BY
TONY DANIEL & FRANK D'ARMATA

#45 VARIANT BY
MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & MORRY HOLLOWELL

#46 VARIANT BY
MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & MORRY HOLLOWELL

#47 VARIANT BY MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & JASON KEITH

"Includes all the ingredients of a great Spider-Man story." – Comic Crusaders

FOR MONTHS, PERHAPS YEARS, HE HAS CRAWLED IN THE SHADOWS,

MANIPULATING EVENTS FROM AFAR.

NOW THE DEMON known as Kindred is finally ready to take his revenge – not on Spider-Man, but on Peter Parker! And he's resurrected one of Spidey's most disturbing foes: the fanatical Sin-Eater! But who is the Sin-Eater, and why is it so terrifying that he's back? What secret history will be revealed? And who will the shotgun-toting villain target in the here and now? The Lethal Legion has returned to threaten the Big Apple, but they're about to end up in the Sin-Eater's sights! Can Spider-Man stop the murderous vigilante from taking deadly aim? Should he? And as Sin-Eater's appetite for sins to punish grows greater still, he turns his attention to...the Ravencroft Institute for the Criminally Insane!

COLLECTING ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2018) #44-47*** AND A***MAZING SPIDER-MAN: SINS RISING PRELUDE*** – BY NICK SPENCER, BRUNO OLIVEIRA, KIM JACINTO, MARK BAGLEY, MARCELO FERREIRA, GUILLERMO SANNA, ANDY OWENS, JOHN DELL, ROBERTO POGGI, DAVID CURIEL AND JORDIE BELLAIRE.

MARVEL

F
F
M
R
P
I